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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries
First session
Geneva, 26 October 1992
Agenda item 3

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Work Programme [1]

1. Pursuant to a New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment, adopted at the eighth session of the Conference, the Standing Committee agreed, on the basis of Board decision 398(XXXVIII) which sets out in Annex B the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, the following work programme for the period up to the next session of the Conference.

Promoting Transparency

2. The Standing Committee will:

(a) develop a conceptual framework for the collection and compilation of internationally comparable statistics on all modes of delivery, in particular with regard to commercial presence and movement of natural persons, as well as contributing to the improvement of the CPC in order to adapt it to the specific needs of international trade in services;

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[1] As adopted by the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors at its fourth plenary meeting.

(b) collect and disseminate information on measures, including laws and regulations, affecting the access of services and service suppliers to world markets, including a study of the possibility of setting up a computerized database in this regard, with a view to enhancing the service exports of developing countries.

Fostering Competitive Services Sectors

3. The Standing Committee will:

(a) conduct a comparative analysis of services sectors in developing countries; such analysis will: (i) examine the role played by the services sector in contributing to growth and sustainable development, including an examination of the contribution of the producer services sector in facilitating the competitiveness of goods-producing sectors, and to the economy as a whole; (ii) assess weaknesses and capabilities; and (iii) identify policies to assist developing countries in developing and strengthening their competitive services sectors, including infrastructure relating to services;

(b) facilitate an exchange of experiences with respect to the liberalization of services sectors and the application of laws and regulations aimed at this end, with a view to stimulating the development of these sectors;

(c) analyse ways and means of fostering the market-oriented development of the service sector including, where appropriate, through deregulation and privatization;

(d) study the impact of subsidies on trade in services, especially on the exports of developing countries;

(e) examine ways of enhancing access to and use of information networks and distribution channels;

(f) examine the role of joint ventures in stimulating the development of services sectors in developing countries and promoting trade in services and their access to technology;

(g) assess the impact of progressive liberalization and of services imports in the development of competitive services sectors; and examine difficulties faced by developing countries which prevent them from increasing their participation in world trade in services;

(h) identify and analyse the possibilities for developing country services exports through temporary movement of persons as service suppliers, be it as sole service providers or as personnel; and analyse the measures affecting their ability to export such services due to barriers to the temporary movement of persons across national frontiers to supply services;

(i) Analyse on-going processes of recognition and harmonization of qualifications;

(j) identify and analyse policies aimed at the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation in services; including among countries at different levels of economic development;

(k) in carrying out its work, the Standing Committee would give particular attention to the situation of the least developed countries, and suggest ways and means for improving their capacity.

Strengthening technical cooperation

4. In carrying out the above activities the Standing Committee will identify areas where technical cooperation should be strengthened.